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EN ROUTE TO THE

KLONDIKE

A SERIES OF
PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

CHILKOOT PASS
SKAGUAY TRAIL
LAKE LINDERMAN
LAKE BENNETT

Part II.

ST. MICHAELS
DAWSON CITY
FORTY MILE CREEK
YUKON RIVER

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The King of Packers



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DYEA, OCTOBER, 1897.—The impossibility of securing sufficient help to pack the new arrivals' outfits over the mountains caused delays, and with each new steamer came increasing numbers, requiring more and better accommodations. In October, Dyea had become a town of somewhat pretentious wooden buildings, containing stores with all sorts of merchandise, hotels, and restaurants, as well as saloons and gambling-houses, which were conspicuous and flourishing. The town site is surveyed, corner lots command high prices, and real estate offices are numerous and enterprising. Up to January there were no wharves, which was a great inconvenience and seriously retarded the progress of the town. That, however, has now been remedied.

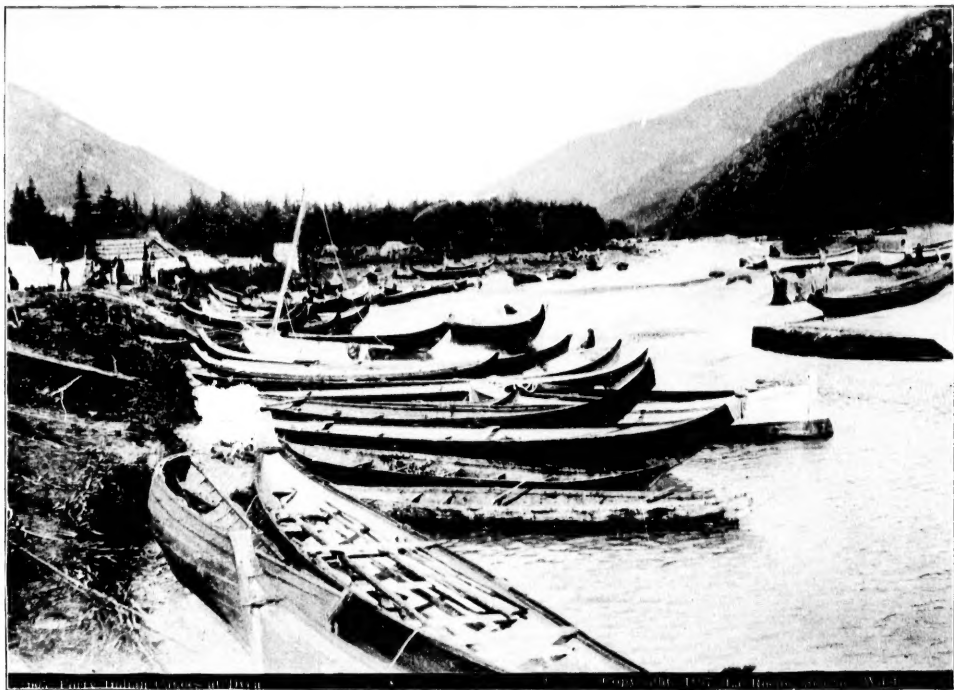


HEALY & WILSON'S STORE, DYE A.—For years the building on the left was the trading post and postoffice for all the surrounding country. Captain Healy came from Montana after a most adventurous life. Born in Ireland and brought to the United States when a small boy, he ran away from home at the age of 12 and joined a band of filibusters bound for Nicaragua. He visited the Yukon some years ago and founded the company with which he is now associated, secured the assistance of Chicago capitalists, and by personal supervision has made it one of the very strongest organizations in Alaska. This trading post, which is now managed by his son-in-law, is one of the most famous in Alaska.

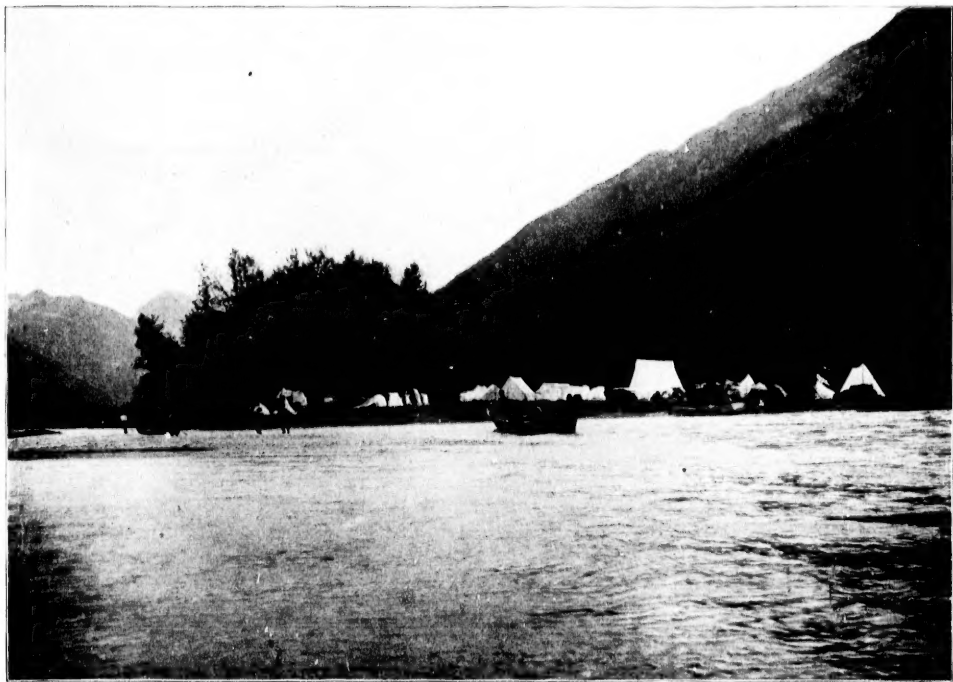


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RICE'S PLACE.—"Meals Served at All Hours"—It is very easy to imagine how welcome a place with a sign of this nature is to the weary gold seeker, who has plodded along for days with limited food, and probably lived for several months on hardtack and salt pork. A *table d'hôte* dinner at \$1.50 is a cheap luxury, even if it consists of only bacon, beans, bread, coffee, a small piece of cheese, and the possibility of a little dried fruit. This is a dinner worth going miles for in the Klondike, and if the happy miner is "flush" he will probably spend an additional 50 cents for a drink and be transported to the seventh heaven of delight on the fumes of a 50-cent weed. One cannot afford, even in the Klondike, to be too fastidious.

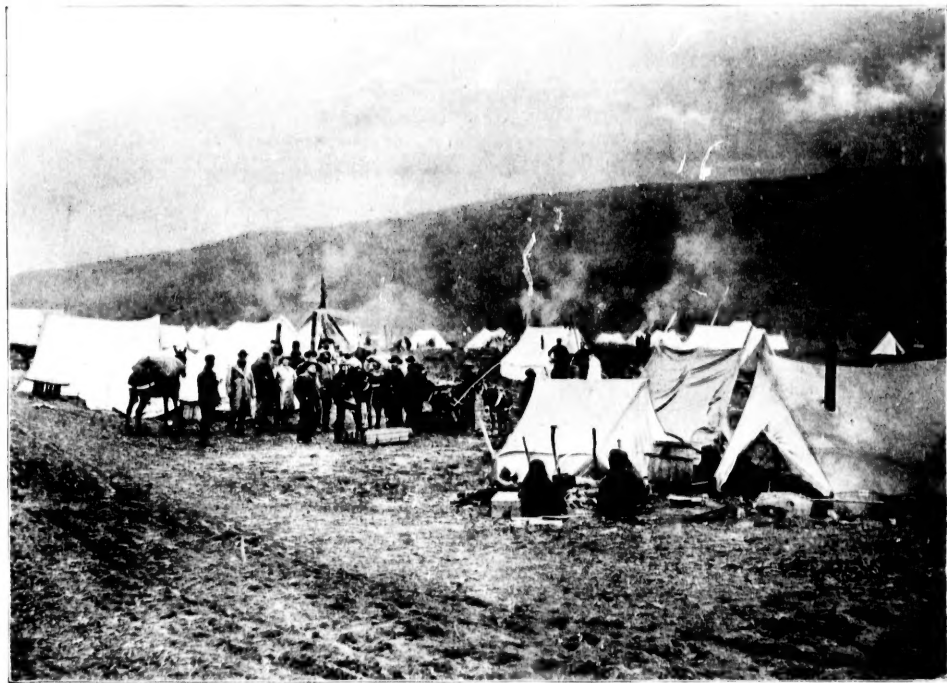


FORTY INDIAN CANOES AT DYEA.—This photograph was taken on Sunday, on which day the Chilkoots will not work for any price. Most of them are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, thoroughly trustworthy, and, as packers, to be preferred to white men. Their church services were held every Sunday at Dyea in a tent. These canoes, when loaded, were towed about six miles up Dyea River to the head of canoe navigation. On the left is the Indian village, with one hundred or more tents of the Indian packers. These people found the past summer an astonishingly profitable one by reason of the great rush to the gold fields, and they naturally look forward to the present year with great expectations.



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FIRST CROSSING, DYEA RIVER.—A good wagon road leads from the Dyea Beach to this first crossing of the river. In the spring of 1897 a bridge crossing the river at this point was washed away, and afterward all goods had to be ferried across at a cost of five dollars a ton, while fifty cents was charged for each passenger. As one of these Indian canoes would carry a ton or more on each trip, and the distance across the river was less than two hundred feet, it can be readily understood what a profitable business it was. Many of the Indians upon the trail worked sixteen and even eighteen hours a day, and earned more money that one summer than during the whole of their preceding lives.



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CAMP AT DYEA POINT. During the last days of August, 1897, Dyea Point presented the appearance of an army camp, and not even the early Spanish adventurers under De Soto Cortez or Pizarro were more eager in their search for wealth than the men who made the toilsome journey from this point over the Chilkoot into the interior; and like those Spanish Knights of old these men will all experience weeks and months and perhaps years of self-denial and laborious effort—some to meet disappointment while others more fortunate will reap a rich reward for their labor. It is stated that the first prospecting parties went over the Chilkoot Pass in 1880, and since then in increasing numbers, but not until August, 1897, did they come by the ship load.



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PACK TRAIN, DYE CANYON.—This is a magnificent piece of scenery if regarded purely from a natural point of view. The unrestrained elements have produced a state of chaos; and through the wooded gulch the human trail wends its way, and man in quest of wealth and honor defies the forces of nature. Great boulders of rock and piles of broken timber bestrew the line of march, and great care has to be exercised in picking out one's footsteps, and also those of the beasts of burden. Accidents are not by any means a rarity; but with the necessary amount of care there is no occasion for any serious mishaps unless the weather be unpropitious. Fine weather prevailed when this photograph was taken.



BURRO PACK TRAIN, DYEAL POINT.—By means of these pack animals, so familiar to tourists of Colorado mountain resorts, supplies were taken for some distance up the trail. The charge was about 38 cents a pound in September, from Dyea over the Chilkoot Pass to Lake Linderman, a distance of twenty-eight miles. There were comparatively few pack animals on the Dyea trail. The Indians doing a very large part of the work, the charges were about the same, but the chief difficulty was to secure help. This neighborhood presented a scene of feverish activity, as each new arrival sought to get his supplies under way by canoe or pack animal; and often impatient of delay carried them unaided on his own broad shoulders.



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BURROS FORDING DYE RIVER.—This is at Finnegan's Point, five miles from Dyea, and two miles out from the second crossing. It was the end of the wagon trail during the summer of 1897. Not the least of the dismal experiences encountered during this journey were the very frequent rains and continuous cloudy weather. The great difficulty in taking views in such places will be best understood by experienced photographers. Only slow progress could be made with a photographic outfit and a complete camp was required for its accommodation, involving the employment of considerable help and the expenditure of much time and money. Every one of these views represents great physical effort and exposure.



INDIANS FREIGHTING UP DYEA RIVER WITH CANOES.—Here the squaws are riding and guiding while the men are ahead towing with long ropes. These boats are regular dug-outs, made from large timber, and drawing about eight inches of water, yet carrying a thousand pounds or more of freight. The trading companies never pay the natives in cash. Last summer's rush brought them into closer touch with the civilization of white men, and they learned to strike. Deck hands on one steamer were receiving one dollar per hour. One day they refused to work for less than two dollars. They got it. They kept on striking until the wages were five dollars an hour.



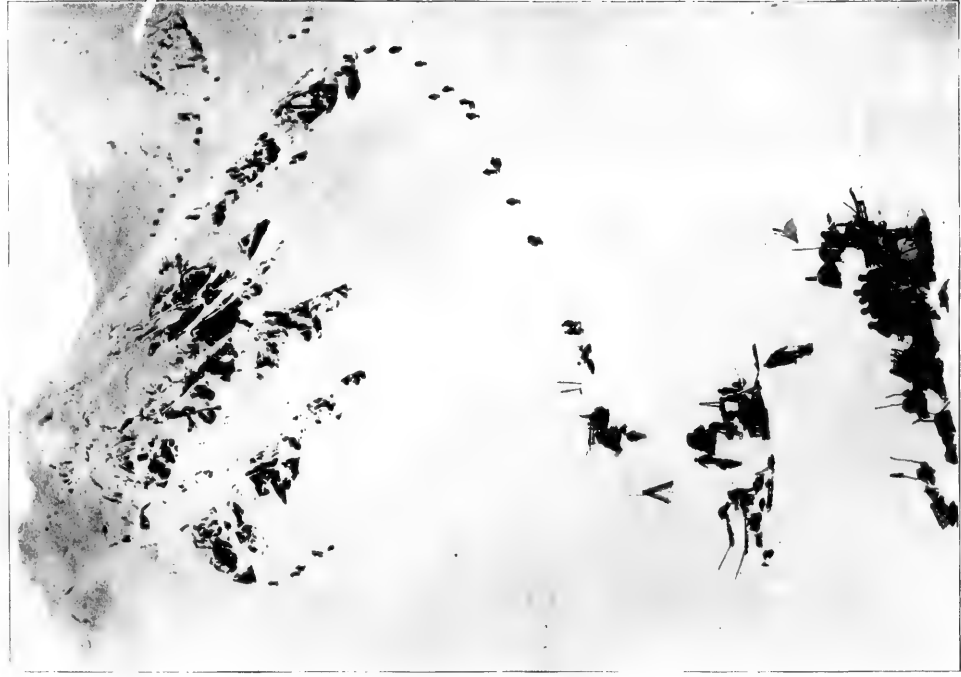
INDIANS POLING CANOE UP DYEA RIVER.—These are Metlakahla Indians from the mission schools that are four hundred miles below. They have in transit a knock-down boat, the bow of which is a conspicuous feature. They receive two hundred dollars for taking two such boats from the head of canoe navigation to the summit of Chilkoot Pass, about ten miles. Canoes can be readily obtained from the Indians, but it is not advisable to attempt to use them without the assistance of Indians who are familiar with the frail birch-bark vessels. Like many other things, they are easily maneuvered when properly understood. These canoes can be secured to carry very considerable weights.



FORTY-FIVE DEGREE INCLINE AND SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS.—

This is the most difficult and dreaded portion of the journey, the trail rising here eleven feet in half a mile over a perfect maze of broken rock. In this photograph may be seen an almost continuous line of white specks reaching to the depression at the summit. Each is a human being with a pack upon his back toiling slowly upward. Toward the summit is a sheer ascent of 1,000 feet, where a slip would certainly be fatal.

human being with a pack upon his back. Coming down the steep
sheer ascent of 1,000 feet, where a slip would certainly be fatal.



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CHILKOOT SUMMIT IN WINTER.—The expedition was fortunate enough to secure this excellent photograph of the pass when its rugged grandeur was dressed in the garb of winter. It depicts with lifelike accuracy the human trail climbing to the summit of Chilkoot. Snow is deceptive. The places that are welcomed as being easy of ascent are oftentimes a series of difficult climbs, and one looks back with surprise at a considerable incline in place of the level spot he had cheerfully thought to encounter.



226. A Packer's Home, Foot of Canyon, Dyea Trail.

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A PACKER'S HOME, FOOT OF CANYON, DYEA TRAIL. This shows how readily a temporary abiding place may be improvised by spreading a table cloth across poles which lean against the towering walls of the canyon. This style of architecture would not seem to afford much protection against an Arctic winter, but it serves to exclude a large amount of rain, and the excessive heat of the sun in the summer time. One often wonders at the hardihood of the packers in this country, and sometimes envies them their strength. It is almost difficult to imagine the average city man putting up with the hardships that have to be endured. But many a city fellow surprises the men already inured to such trials.



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SCALES, CHILKOOT PASS.—This is an extremely interesting spot. It is at the foot of Chilkoot Pass, and the last resting place prior to the ascent of Chilkoot on the northward trip. The group shown in the picture includes several Indian packers. After the long march from Dyea Point this hardy band of miners took a well merited rest at the foot of the pass. The rocky background, shown in the photograph, is a slight indication of the hazardous climb in prospect. The climate and the occupation are not conducive to slender appetites, and it will be seen that as soon as a halt was cried some of the men plunged into their provision sacks regardless of the fact that their photographs were being taken.



PACKERS ON DYEA TRAIL, NEAR STONE HOUSE.—When the point shown in the above picture is reached on the Dyea trail, about two and one-half miles the other side of Sheep Camp, and one-half mile from Stone House, the precipitous climb up the mountain top has already made transportation by four-footed animals impossible. Here the packers are indispensable. Each has his mountain staff in hand and a heavy load of supplies is strapped upon his brawny shoulders. The squaw in this group is carrying a Klondike stove.

are indispensable. Each has his mountain staff in hand and a heavy Klondike stove strapped upon his brawny shoulders. The squaw in this group is carrying a Klondike stove.



NEAR THE SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS.—Showing the difficult pathway being traversed by the gold-seekers. The pass has been filled with columns of sensational rubbish about the perils of this pass. It is only about 3,550 feet above the sea level, and the road is much like other rugged mountain trails, and women and children have often gone over in summer. The first regularly organized prospecting expedition, which started for the Yukon in 1880, went through the Chilkoot Pass. It is a gateway to the Yukon country.



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CAMP AT LONG LAKE, DYCE TRAIL.—This is one of the regular camping grounds for travelers who seek the gold fields by way of the Dyce trail. Although wild and bleak in winter, it is not so unpleasant in the hot summer months when the chief enemy of comfort is the bloodthirsty mosquito. With rugged mountains rearing their lofty heads around, the miners can encamp in comparative peace beside Long Lake, and take the much needed rest that is demanded at the end of a wearying march. After a night's refreshing sleep beside the placid waters the march will be resumed in the early morning and the next resting place will probably be one of the camps at Deep Lake on the journey north. The conditions all tend to make one anxious to push onward.



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DEEP LAKE, DYCE TRAIL.—This lake is a well known spot on the Dyce trail. It is between Long Lake and Lake Linderman, and its shores are very popular as a camping ground for miners going by the overland route. Several camps are to be found in the neighborhood. The surroundings are barren and rocky, and in the winter months it is an extremely undesirable place to be located. But when the snow has disappeared before the inspiring rays of a summer sun it is healthy, placid and peaceful. One cannot find much shooting round about, as the absence of fertility makes it unattractive to both birds and beasts. By the banks of the lake, however, a very welcome rest can be enjoyed by the traveler on his way to the land of placer mining.



ON THE SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS.—This photograph shows the character of the route over the mountains with its huge blocks of broken granite scattered about in the most inextricable confusion. Last year's rush through the Chilkoot Pass caused somewhat of a congestion, and many people since then are looking around for other ways to get through the mountain ranges into the country where the headwaters of the Yukon can be reached. The people of Juneau strongly favor this route to the gold fields, because every one going that way has to pass through their city. This may have something to do with the reputation Chilkoot Pass has attained, but whether or not, this route is still the popular one.



GLACIER, SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. -The man on the left is packing a section of a boat; in the foreground is an Alaskan glacier. The dark shadows show the meeting point of two trails over the snow fields. One must be on the summit of Chilkoot Pass in mid-winter to realize its worst phases. Then, when the unequalled panorama of glittering white spreads out on every side, its beauty is indescribable; but the gold seeker, already weary from climbing, fails to appreciate its rugged charms. He has before him a wild descent of twelve miles, with a load on his back and a cruel wind blinding him with snow, filling his nostrils, and keeping him gasping for breath, in an atmosphere probably fifty degrees below zero.



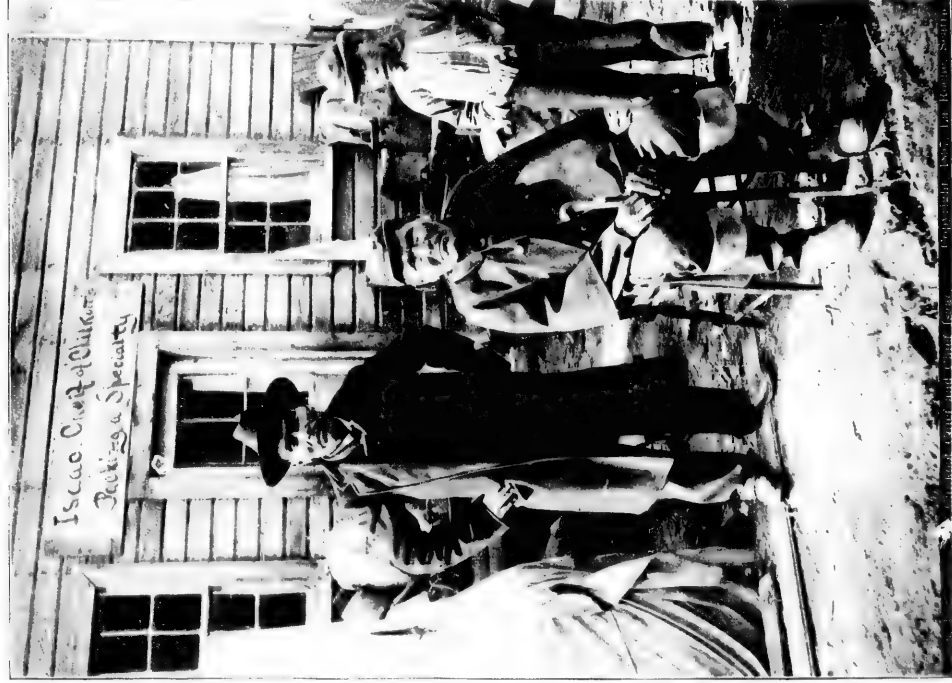
PACK HORSES ON EDGE OF PRECIPICE, CHILKOOT PASS— This is the end of the available trail for pack animals, fifteen miles from Dyea. Animals have been taken over the pass from this point, but without load, and usually with considerable effort. Chilkoot Indians are employed to pack supplies to the top of the pass; but from there on the traveler must pack his own load. This pass is shorter than either the Chilkat or the White Pass; but the highest by at least 1,000 feet. It is 3,559 feet above sea level. The last mile of this pass is over a glacier, and the severest of climbing, the ascent being 111 feet. The average traveler heartily congratulates himself when he reaches the summit for the first time.



2024. South From Foot of Canyon. Dyea Trail.

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LOOKING SOUTH FROM FOOT OF DYEA CANYON. This photograph shows at a glance the route thus far traversed by the expedition for a distance of over seven miles. Rugged scenery of the wildest description is met with in this locality, and the eye of the traveler is appalled by the grandeur of nature around him. The country here gives every evidence of having been at some past time the bed of a great glacial river, between one and two miles wide. When the weather is congenial, with neither mosquitoes nor snow-drifts to embarrass the ambitious gold seeker, his mind must indeed be barren if he fail to enjoy the wonderful landscapes and virgin forests of these regions of untold mineral wealth.



DON A WOK, OLD CHILKOOT CHIEF, AND CHIEF ISAAC — Don-a-wok is eighty years old, and ruler of all the Chilkooots. Isaac is the active chief and general contractor for packing. There is an air of dignity and respectability about these men which will impress any one most favorably. The elder chief cannot speak English, but most of the younger Indians have learned to speak it well at the mission schools. For many years the coast Indians would not permit the natives of the interior to cross the mountains, but would themselves trade with them, and in turn dispose of their purchases to the white traders on the coast. But the old customs are rapidly changing.

Sawmill LAKE BENNETT
N.W. Mounted Police Post
Mustang

MAP OF
DYE AND SNAQUAY TRAILS

What Part 3 Will Contain

THE TOWN OF SKAGUAY

As it Appeared in October.

AN ALASKAN FRUIT STORE

A Busy Establishment.

KLONDIKE TRADING CO.'S HEADQUARTERS

At Skaguay, Alaska.

MAIN STREET, RAGTOWN

"Goods Bought and Sold."

BROADWAY, SKAGUAY

Pack Trains to Order.

RESIDENCE STREET, SKAGUAY

In the Thick of the Forest.

IN THE SUBURBS

Pioneers at Work.

WHEN THE AUGUST SUN REIGNS

Making a City.

ACROSS THE RIVER

The Boat at Anchor.

AT LOW TIDE

Navigation Suspended.

STEAMERS AT ANCHOR

Two Well Known Boats.

ON SKAGUAY TRAIL

Near the Summit.

A FAMOUS DOG TEAM

Just Ready to Start.

IN THE LUMBER YARD

Waiting to be Photographed.

A BRIDGE OF TIMBER

Across the Skaguay River.

THE WAGON ROAD

Through the Forest.

THE FIRST HILL

The Course of the River.

THE SECOND HILL

A Peep at the Top.

ANOTHER VIEW

Through the Mountains.

SKAGUAY TRAIL

At Little Lake.

PORCUPINE CREEK

Hungry Man's Retreat.

ON THE PRECIPICE

Of Porcupine Hill.

DYER CANYON

Through the Pass.

CHILKAT INDIANS

Taking a Rest.



